

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 262104Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017670

GENEVA FOR MEPC DELEGATION

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UR, IS, EA, RO

SUBJECT: FAHMI VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. DURING JAN 25 CALL IN EUR DEP ASST SEC ARMITAGE, ISRAELI EMBASSY COUNSELOR RAVIV CONFESSED ISRAELI DIFFICULTY ASSESSING FAHMI VISIT TO MOSCOW AND SAID ONLY INTERESTING WORD IN COMMUNIQUE WAS "SATISFACTION" EXPRESSED OVER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

2. (WE NOTE THAT TERM "SATISFACTION" IN COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. PERHAPS RAVIV MEANT TO REMARK ON "POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE" WHICH COMMUNIQUE ATTRIBUTED TO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.)

3. RAVIV ASKED FOR DEPT ASSESSMENT OF VISIT AND GENERAL
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SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD MIDDLE EAST EVENTS. HE SAID THERE

WAS ALWAYS ISRAELI FEAR THAT SOVIETS MIGHT UNDERMINE THE PEACEFUL COURSE OF EVENTS THROUGH EGYPTIANS. THEY ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THIS WHEN THEY WANT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT ISRAEL DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SOVIETS WERE UP TO IN EGYPT.

4. RAVIV SAID SOVIETS HAD EXPLAINED TO "OTHERS" LACK OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS DUE TO

FACT THAT ARABS WOULD THEN BEAR RESPONSIBILITY WHEN AGREEMENT FALTERS. BUT HE AGREED WITH ARMITAGE'S COMMENT THAT THIS EXPLANATION MIGHT SIMPLY REFLECT LACK OF ANY OTHER SOVIET EXCUSE.

5. ARMITAGE MENTIONED WE HAVE HEARD RATHER VAGUE INTIMATIONS OF SOVIET MIDDLE EAST POLICY DISCUSSIONS RAISING QUESTION OF BENEFITS OF HEAVY SOVIET COMMITMENTS IN ME AREA AND ASKED IF RAVIV HAD HEARD ANYTHING OF THIS. RAVIV SAID HE HAD NOT, BUT ISRAELIS WERE AWARE EVEN BEFORE THE WAR OF SOVIETS' DISSATISFACTION REFLECTED IN SUSPICION OF SADAT-- SINCE JULY 1972, AND OF FAKHMI -- EVEN BEFORE HE BECAME FOM MIN.

6. RAVIV REPORTED THAT ONLY 100 JEWS EMIGRATED SO FAR THIS MONTH FROM ROMANIA COMPARED TO NORMAL FIGURE OF APPROXIMATELY 1,000. ABOUT 1900 HAD EMIGRATED SO FAR IN JANUARY FROM SOVIET UNION, HE SAID. RUSH

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